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**NSC BRIEFING**

**25 APRIL 1956**

- I. Dissolution of Cominform
  - A. Formed in 1947.
  - B. Included Communist Parties--USSR, France, Italy, all East European Satellites except East Germany and Albania.
  - C. Weekly journal also abolished.
- II. Main purpose dissolution--aid co-operation with Socialist parties.
  - A. Pravda says Cominform "obsolete."
  - B. Says more will aid "working class unity."
  - C. Says Communists ready for "unity of action," common platform.
  - D. International conference of organization proposal likely.
- III. Intended to please Tito.
  - A. Yugoslavs, expelled from Cominform, now vindicated.
  - B. They back Communist-Socialist co-operation.
  - C. Pravda implies Satellite independent, "national" roads to socialism.
- IV. More further "proof" USSR removing causes of tensions.
  - A. Comintern abolished 1943 to ease Allies.
- V. Practical effect on Orbit small.
  - A. Khrushchev--No meeting since 1949.
  - B. Pravda says "even closer contacts" in future.
- VI. Another Stalin relic removed.

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NSC BRIEFING

25 APRIL 1956

### **DISSOLUTION OF THE COMINFORM**

1. Moscow has announced the dissolution of the Cominform and the end of publication of its journal. The Cominform, formed in 1947, included the Communist parties of the Soviet Union, France, Italy, and all the East European satellites except East Germany and Albania. Its main function in recent years has been publication of its weekly journal.

2. Pravda announced that the Cominform was being dissolved because it had become "obsolete" under the "changed historical situation."

3. Pravda makes it clear that the main purpose of this step is to remove a barrier to Communist co-operation with Socialist parties. It stresses the new importance of "eliminating the split of the workers' movement and creating the unity of the working class," and says that dissolving the Cominform will help to accomplish this. Pravda says the Communists are ready "for unity of action with the Socialists," including the drafting of a common platform of principles. We can expect new Communist proposals for international conferences with Socialist parties, particularly in Western Europe, and perhaps a plan for setting up an all-inclusive international organization.

4. The dissolution of the Cominform is intended to please Tito, also. The Yugoslavs, who were expelled from the Cominform in 1948, have welcomed this step as a further vindication of their

anti-Stalin policy. Like Moscow, Yugoslavia is interested in promoting a working arrangement between Orbit Communists and West European Socialists. Pravda implies that the ending of the Cominform is designed to encourage more independent "national" roads to socialism among the Satellites, another gesture to please Tito.

5. Moscow probably expects the move will be taken throughout the world as further "proof" of Soviet willingness to remove the causes of international tension. In 1943, Moscow abolished the Comintern to create good-will among its war-time allies.

6. Since, as Khrushchev has said, the Cominform has not met since 1949, and its mainfunction has been propaganda, the practical effect of its dissolution within the Orbit will be small. It served no essential purpose in the direction and control of the International Communist movement. Pravda said that "even closer contacts and co-operation" among Communist parties will be necessary in the future.

7. Moscow has removed one more relic left over from the days of Stalin, and has cleared the way for more flexible tactics to win over Socialists and influence world opinion as a whole.